

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 668
By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION to name the National Guard Armory in
Covington, Tipton County, Tennessee in honor
of Jimmy Naifeh, Speaker of the House of
Representatives of the Tennessee General
Assembly.

WHEREAS, from time to time, our State has given birth to exemplary citizens whose
lives of purpose and contributions to their fellow citizens reflect favorably on the Volunteer State,
even as they inspire those who follow to emulate them; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Naifeh, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Tennessee
General Assembly, is one such exemplary citizen who serves his community, state, and nation
with the utmost commitment to good government and improving the quality of life for all; and

WHEREAS, born June 16, 1939, in Covington, Tennessee, the son of the late Oney
Joseph Naifeh, a Lebanese immigrant and enterprising businessman who became a civic leader
in his community, and Adele Hamra Naifeh, Jimmy Naifeh graduated from Byars Hall High
School and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; he
served in the United States Army Infantry and emerged as a First Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, a partner in Naifeh Realty, Speaker Naifeh is very active in his community,
serving as a member and former president of the Covington-Tipton County Chamber of
Commerce, as a member of the South Tipton County Chamber of Commerce, and the
Brownsville/Haywood County Chamber of Commerce; he is a member of the Tipton County
Veterans Council and American Legion Post #67, past president of the Covington Rotary Club,
and past president and member of the Tipton County University of Tennessee Alumni
Association; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Naifeh is a member of the Board of Governors of ALSAC – St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, a cause very close to his heart and to which he has devoted considerable time and energy; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Naifeh developed an intense interest in politics and public service at an early age; he was elected to the House of Representatives of the 89th General Assembly from the 81st District in 1974; rising quickly through the Democratic Party ranks, he was elected Majority Floor Leader in his next term, serving in that capacity until 1985, when he was elected Majority Leader; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Naifeh served as Majority Leader until he was elected Speaker by the House of Representatives of the 97th General Assembly in 1991; he has been re-elected to that post ever since, and has presided over many initiatives that have strengthened and improved the effectiveness of the House of Representatives and the General Assembly in general; and

WHEREAS, in reaching his present office, Speaker Naifeh has demonstrated his leadership capabilities as past chairman of the Rural West Tennessee Democratic Caucus, the House Ethics Committee, and the House Rules Committee, as well as past vice-chairman of the Select Oversight Committee on Corrections; he is a member of the House/Senate Joint Management Committee, past president and member of the Executive Committee of the National Speakers Conference, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Naifeh’s considerable abilities have been recognized on numerous occasions, including his being selected as “Legislator of the Year” by the Tennessee Association of Human Resource Agencies, the Tennessee District Attorney Generals Conference, the Tennessee School Boards Association, the Tennessee Court Clerks Association, the Tennessee Sheriffs Association, the Tennessee County Officials Association, the Tennessee Business Roundtable, the Tennessee Development District Association in 1996 and 1997, the Tennessee Truckers Association, the Chiefs of Police and the District Attorney Generals Conference; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee State Employees Association honored Speaker Naifeh in 1990 with an award for his long-term support of the Association and he received the National Conference of State Legislators Leadership Award in that same year; in 1993 he received the Harry Burns and Good Guys Award from the Women's Political Caucus; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Covington and Tipton County have expressed a desire to name the National Guard Armory in Covington in honor of Speaker Naifeh, a man of great distinction and character; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly most heartily concurs with this excellent proposal; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the Tennessee National Guard Armory in Covington, Tipton County is hereby designated as the "Speaker Jimmy Naifeh National Guard Armory" as a lasting tribute to this outstanding political leader, dedicated public servant and august gentleman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of the Military is directed to erect suitable signs or affix suitable markers designating such edifice as the "Speaker Jimmy Naifeh National Guard Armory".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to The Adjutant General.